



Notice of Funds Availability

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education FY 2013 Teacher Quality Improvement Grant Program

The District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is soliciting applications for the development and provision of professional development programs aimed at enhancing student achievement in eligible Local Educational Agencies (LEAs). The purpose of these professional development programs will be to ensure that teachers, highly qualified paraprofessionals, and, if appropriate, principals have subject matter knowledge in the core academic subjects they teach, and build upon the skills necessary to help students master core academic subjects. The Teacher Quality Improvement Grant Program is authorized under Part A, Subpart 3 of Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended – Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund.

Eligibility: The Teacher Quality Improvement Grant Program is a partnership grant. An eligible application must include the following principal partners at a minimum:

- (1) a private or State IHE and the division of the institution that prepares teachers and principals;
- (2) a school of arts and sciences; and
- (3) a high need LEA.

State Application Priority: In alignment with the District of Columbia's Race to the Top initiatives, adoption of the State Common Core Standards, and the overall strategic vision of the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), preferential consideration will be given to applications that address one or more of the following priorities:

1. Professional development aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) that meet the needs of LEAs in the partnership. Partnerships may also provide the following: coaching to teachers on instructional practices aligned to CCSS; curricula, lesson and unit plans aligned to CCSS; and the development of tools to ensure that interim and other local assessments are aligned to CCSS.
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2. Provision of professional development that includes standards-based academic content in one or more of the top five subject areas with the highest number of non-highly qualified teachers statewide: Elementary Education; English/Reading/Language Arts; Secondary Mathematics; Secondary Sciences (General Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics); and/or; Secondary Social Studies.
3. Programs that target a majority of teachers and/or principals in Developing, Focus, and/or Priority schools (see Attachment J for a list of schools that meet this criteria); and/or a majority of teachers rated as effective or minimally effective per the LEA's evaluation system in efforts geared to move these teachers toward earning highly effective ratings.
4. Programs that develop a corps of master educators who are proficient in using challenging State academic content standards, student academic achievement standards, and State assessments to improve instructional practices and student achievement by helping other teachers, paraprofessionals, and/or principals in low-performing schools develop this specific competency.

Award Period: The grant period will be from the date of award until September 30th, 2014.

Available Funding for Awards: The amount available for this award period is approximately \$284,468.



Anticipated Number and Amount of Awards: Historically, grants have ranged in the amount of \$50,000 to \$100,000. The Request for Applications (RFA) will be released on Friday, March 1st, 2013 and the deadline for submission is Monday, April 22nd, 2013 at 5:00pm. The RFA will be available on OSSE's website, www.osse.dc.gov, and/or by contacting the OSSE Division of Elementary and Secondary Education at (202) 741-5218.

A Pre-Application Conference will be held via online webinar on Wednesday, March 21st, 2013 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. You may RSVP by contacting Orman Feres at (202) 741-5218 or by sending an e-mail to orman.feres@dc.gov. Upon contacting OSSE to RSVP, prospective applicants will receive details for accessing the webinar. **It is strongly recommended that applying organizations attend the pre-application webinar.**

Prospective applicants are encouraged to telephone or email questions to Orman Feres via telephone at 202-741-5218 or via email orman.feres@dc.gov or to Tanisha Brown via telephone at 202-741-5095 or via email tanisha.brown@dc.gov **by Friday, April 19, 2013.** Questions submitted after this deadline will not be identified for a response.